

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for printing a document comprising:

analyzing a metadata in a plurality of document pages to determine a required printer

5 type;

separating each of the plurality of document pages into a plurality of print jobs based
on the required printer type for each document page;

selecting an appropriate printer for each of the plurality of print jobs; and

printing the plurality of print jobs on the appropriate printers.

10 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

reassembling the plurality of printed print jobs to produce a finished document.

3. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

distributing one of the plurality of document pages to a specific printer holding
queue; and

15 wherein the required printer for the distributed document page is a specific printer.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein the specific printer is a printer containing letterhead.

5. The method of claim 3 wherein the specific printer is a photographic printer.

6. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

distributing one of the plurality of document pages to a color printer holding queue;

20 and

wherein the required printer for the distributed document page is a color printer.

7. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

distributing one of the plurality of document pages to a black/white printer holding queue; and

wherein the required printer for the distributed document page is a black/white printer.

5 8. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

comparing each print job to a printer page threshold; and

responsive to a determination that the number of document pages in the print job exceeds the printer page threshold, separating print job into a plurality of print jobs.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein the selecting step further comprises:

10 calculating the time until the printers are available; and

sending the print job to the first available printer.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein the selecting step further comprises:

calculating the time required for the print jobs to print; and

15 sending the print jobs to the printer with the lowest calculated time required to print the print job.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein the selecting step further comprises:

ranking the printers based on the time until the printers are available; and

assigning the print jobs to the printers based on the printer ranking.

12. The method of claim 1 wherein the selecting step further comprises:

20 ranking the printers based on the time required for the print jobs to print; and

assigning the print jobs to the printers based on the printer ranking.

13. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

printing a control page with each print job; and

wherein the control page contains printed instructions for reassembling the document.

14. The method of claim 1 wherein the appropriate printer is determined using a print farm profile.

5 15. A program product operable on a computer, the program product comprising:

a computer-usable medium;

wherein the computer usable medium comprises instructions comprising:

instructions for analyzing a metadata in a plurality of document pages to
determine a required printer type;

10 instructions for separating each of the plurality of document pages into a
plurality of print jobs based on the required printer type for each document page;

instructions for selecting an appropriate printer for each of the plurality of
print jobs; and

instructions for printing the plurality of print jobs on the appropriate printers.

15 16. The program product of claim 15 further comprising:

instructions for reassembling the plurality of printed print jobs to produce a finished
document.

17. The program product of claim 15 further comprising:

20 instructions for distributing one of the plurality of document pages to a specific
printer holding queue; and

wherein the required printer for the distributed document page is a specific printer.

18. The program product of claim 17 wherein the specific printer is a printer containing
letterhead.

19. The program product of claim 17 wherein the specific printer is a photographic printer.

20. The program product of claim 15 further comprising:

instructions for distributing one of the plurality of document pages to a color printer holding queue; and

5 wherein the required printer for the distributed document page is a color printer.

21. The program product of claim 15 further comprising:

instructions for distributing one of the plurality of document pages to a black/white printer holding queue; and

10 wherein the required printer for the distributed document page is a black/white printer.

22. The program product of claim 15 further comprising:

instructions for comparing each print job to a printer page threshold; and

15 responsive to a determination that the number of document pages in the print job exceeds the printer page threshold, instructions for separating print job into a plurality of print jobs.

23. The program product of claim 15 wherein the selecting step further comprises:

instructions for calculating the time until the printers are available; and

instructions for sending the print job to the first available printer.

24. The program product of claim 15 wherein the selecting step further comprises:

20 instructions for calculating the time required for the print jobs to print; and

instructions for sending the print jobs to the printer with the lowest calculated time required to print the print job.

25. The program product of claim 15 wherein the selecting step further comprises:

instructions for ranking the printers based on the time until the printers are available;
and

instructions for assigning the print jobs to the printers based on the printer ranking.

26. The program product of claim 15 wherein the selecting step further comprises:

5 instructions for ranking the printers based on the time required for the print jobs to
print; and

instructions for assigning the print jobs to the printers based on the printer ranking.

27. The program product of claim 17 further comprising:

instructions for printing a control page with each print job; and

10 wherein the control page contains printed instructions for reassembling the document.

28. The program product of claim 17 wherein the appropriate printer is determined using a print
farm profile.

29. A program product operable on a computer, the program product comprising:

15 a computer-usable medium;

wherein the computer usable medium comprises instructions comprising:

a classification program; and

a plurality of printer programs.

30. The program product of claim 29 wherein the plurality of printer programs comprises a color

20 printer program, a black/white printer program, and a specific printer program.

31. The program product of claim 29 wherein the classification program further comprises:

instructions for analyzing a metadata in a plurality of document pages to
determine a required printer type;

instructions for separating each of the plurality of document pages into a plurality of print jobs based on the required printer type for each document page;

instructions for selecting an appropriate printer for each of the plurality of print jobs; and

5 instructions for printing the plurality of print jobs on the appropriate printers.

32. The program product of claim 31 further comprising:

instructions for reassembling the plurality of printed print jobs to produce a finished document.

33. The program product of claim 31 further comprising:

10 instructions for distributing one of the plurality of document pages to a specific printer holding queue; and

wherein the required printer for the distributed document page is a specific printer.

34. The program product of claim 33 wherein the specific printer is a printer containing letterhead.

15 35. The program product of claim 33 wherein the specific printer is a photographic printer.

36. The program product of claim 31 further comprising:

instructions for distributing one of the plurality of document pages to a color printer holding queue; and

wherein the required printer for the distributed document page is a color printer.

20 37. The program product of claim 31 further comprising:

instructions for distributing one of the plurality of document pages to a black/white printer holding queue; and

wherein the required printer for the distributed document page is a black/white printer.

38. The program product of claim 31 further comprising:

instructions for comparing each print job to a printer page threshold; and

5 responsive to a determination that the number of document pages in the print job exceeds the printer page threshold, instructions for separating print job into a plurality of print jobs.

39. The program product of claim 31 wherein the selecting step further comprises:

instructions for calculating the time until the printers are available; and

10 instructions for sending the print job to the first available printer.

40. The program product of claim 31 wherein the selecting step further comprises:

instructions for calculating the time required for the print jobs to print; and

instructions for sending the print jobs to the printer with the lowest calculated time required to print the print job.

15 41. The program product of claim 31 wherein the selecting step further comprises:

instructions for ranking the printers based on the time until the printers are available;

and

instructions for assigning the print jobs to the printers based on the printer ranking.

42. The program product of claim 31 wherein the selecting step further comprises:

20 instructions for ranking the printers based on the time required for the print jobs to print; and

instructions for assigning the print jobs to the printers based on the printer ranking.

43. The program product of claim 31 further comprising:

instructions for printing a control page with each print job; and

wherein the control page contains printed instructions for reassembling the document.

44. The program product of claim 31 wherein the appropriate printer is determined using a print farm profile.